

ROBERT S. PEABODY FOUNDATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT
1954

PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Andover, Massachusetts

January 5, 1955

Mr. John M. Kemper
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kemper:

It is a pleasure to be able to report that just before Christmas the physical aspects of the renovation of the Northeastern Hall in the Museum were completed. Cases have at last been finished, lights have been put in place, and plate glass has been installed. Displays must yet be put in place before an exhibition can be opened to the public. This, however, will be a long job, in spite of the fact that we are working toward this end as fast as we can without neglecting other projects. We are happy to say that the room as it now stands is completely satisfactory. We anticipate that with its completion Andover will have again set a precedent for others to follow.

Mr. Theodore L. Stoddard joined the staff as Research Fellow on February 8. His primary task has been the winding up of his research project dealing with the archaeology of the Passamaquoddy Bay area. One step toward this end has been satisfactorily achieved with completion of the preliminary report on the shell heap on Mincher's Point, Cobscook Bay, Maine, where excavations were carried on during 1951. This study made it evident that the fragments of pottery gathered in Maine by Mr. Moorehead in past years, and never adequately described by him, must be analyzed and classified to afford a common basis for description of all prehistoric pottery from Maine. Mr. Stoddard's study of pottery types will be ready for publication this spring; however, we intend to postpone publication until Mr. Stoddard completes a second paper on which he is now working, and Mr.

Howard Sargent finishes his report of the archaeological survey of New Hampshire.

During late August, Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard made a trip to the Passamaquoddy region for purposes of reconnaissance as well as picking up an extensive collection offered to the Foundation by Mr. John Knapton, of Edmunds, Maine. During the ten days which they spent in the field, they tested a shell heap on Mahar's Point and another on Thompson's Point, both on Cobscook Bay, for evidence of Archaic occupation. A third shell heap on Holt's Point, Bocabec, New Brunswick, on Passamaquoddy Bay, was surveyed and tested. This gives promise of being a most important site, since it not only covers a large area to considerable depth, but there also appears to be good reason to expect that it is stratified, at least in some of the deeper parts where the deposit reaches thicknesses as great as four feet. If it is indeed stratified, the site may turn out to be the key necessary to the proper definition of an archaeological horizon which is manifest as far west as Winnipeg. The Foundation foresees work at Holt's Point during one or more seasons.

The Knapton Collection, which Mr. Stoddard boxed and brought to Andover was gathered by the Messrs. John and Douglas Knapton over the last twenty-five years. Unlike the collections of most amateurs, this was carefully catalogued. It reflects nicely the differences in archaeological content exhibited by sites around Cobscook Bay and is therefore of utmost importance. It will be invaluable for purposes of comparison and for defining archaeological complexes in the area it represents. The collection, which totals 1810 objects of bone, stone and pottery, will be sorted and catalogued during the coming year.

Each survey party is constantly on the alert for evidence of documented early seventeenth century French settlements in eastern Maine and New Brunswick. Although many of the early sites have been submerged by the spread of recent settlements there is hope that in the Passamaquoddy region some may have escaped. Discovery of such remains might provide a clue to unanswered questions regarding the persistence of elements of aboriginal culture.

During the year, age determinations by radiocarbon assay have been made for three samples of charcoal secured by the Foundation. Through the kindness of Dr. H. R. Crane, and the Radiocarbon Laboratory, Michigan Memorial-Phoenix Project, two determinations were made on samples secured by Mr. Byers and Mr. Hadlock at the Smith Farm, Ellsworth Falls, Maine, where the Foundation and the Abbe Museum carried on excavations during 1949 and 1950. Two runs made on a sample from a pit at a depth of 26-29 inches yielded dates of approximately 2200 and 1850 B. C. The average age is 2000 B. C., in round numbers. Although closer conformity between these two runs might be desired, the result is consistent with that from the other sample from a depth of 20-22 inches, which dates from about 1400 B. C.

The third radiocarbon date was from a sample of charcoal from the Titicut site, excavated by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hartshorn, and the late Dr. Kirk Bryan. This sample was assayed through the kindness of Dr. Willard F. Libby, the Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago. This sample was also run twice. One run gave a date of about 2080 B. C., the second, a date of about 3800 B. C. The average date obtained from these two runs is about 2500 B. C. Because of the great disparity between results of the two runs, the date is somewhat suspect; however, it is consistent

with dates from New York state and from Maine, and is therefore probably acceptable.

Such age determinations are ordinarily given in terms of number of years before the present, and results are qualified by a probable error which may be as great as several hundred years for older samples. These errors which are a purely statistical factor resulting from the counting of random events have been ignored here, age has been translated into dates according to our calendar, and the words "approximately" or "about" used to indicate that we cannot by this method determine exactly how old any of the archaeological events may be. Increasingly there is accumulating a mass of consistent dates in the eastern United States showing that no matter how many statistical errors may surround the method, valid results may be expected if both archaeologist and physicist are careful to follow proper procedure.

Dates for the samples from Ellsworth Falls apply to a period before aboriginal Americans had learned to make pottery, when they were still hunters, fishermen, and food gatherers possessed of what archaeologists like to call an Archaic culture. The deepest evidence of human occupation at Ellsworth Falls is more than a foot below the lower dated sample. The depth is an indication of the great age of the first occupation of the site for which we were not able to secure adequate charcoal samples. The date from Titicut also falls well within this age bracket, although its association with any specific archaeological horizon is not too clear.

The Foundation has provided the only archaeological radiocarbon dates from New England, ranging from the bracket dates for the Boylston Street Siphon built after 3800 B. C. and abandoned prior to 1900 B. C. down to

1400 B. C., the late Archaic date from Ellsworth Falls. They indicate that approximately 2500 years before the time of Christ, hunters and fishermen who stemmed ultimately from northern Europe and Asia had spread throughout the northeast and established themselves in New England. Since a structure as large and complex as the Fishweir could scarcely have been built by one or two families, we get a hint of a well-ordered society, in which persons were entitled to respect and authority. It must have been a stage of barbarism only removed from that of contemporary northern Europe by the absence of cultivated crops. At this time no huts on the Tiber foreshadowed Rome, Homeric Greece was still a millenium in the future. Among the growing city states of Asia Minor barbarism was slowly giving rise to civilization on the fertile slopes of the Middle East. The One World in which all were armed equally with spears, clubs, and weapons of stone was about to vanish under the slowly mushrooming cloud of technological competition as peoples sought for ways to make and deliver the new and deadlier weapons of metal.

Progress, although slight, was made in attempts to gather more information regarding the occurrence of fluted spear points and other stone tools that have been found at the sand pit on Bull Brook, Ipswich, Massachusetts. As we have indicated in recent reports, implements of this character have been found in western states in association with remains of animals now extinct, and under circumstances that indicate that they were in use between the 6th and 10th millenia before the time of Christ. It seemed of the utmost importance to get further information about the occurrence of these tools in the eastern United States, for such information would be important not only to our own field, but also to geologists,

biologists and botanists. Unfortunately the collectors who found the implements near Ipswich could not be made to realize this until the site was nearly destroyed. In April they reported finds worth examining, so Mr. Byers and Mr. Stoddard went to the site on several occasions to make tests and controlled excavations. They were not successful in their efforts to find contemporary charcoal associated with artifacts, but they did find a number of scrapers that were made of the kinds of stone customarily used by those who made the fluted points. These occurred at depths equal to those at which fluted points were found in adjacent pits by collectors. There can be little doubt that they are all part of the same archaeological complex, which we were thus able to place definitely with regard to depth and soil conditions. The only conclusions to be drawn are that the area probably was treeless and windswept and implements were buried by shifting sand. There is no indication of a persisting land surface which could have supported much plant growth, nor is there any gauge of antiquity at the site. A short account of findings will appear in the January, 1955, issue of American Antiquity. Mr. Byers' study of a sample of objects gathered by the collectors appeared in the April, 1954, issue of the same journal. These two items and a preliminary report prepared by Mr. Johnson and published under the by-line of William Eldridge and Joseph Vaccaro in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society provide the only extensive records of such finds in eastern New England.

Another location worthy of some attention has been found on the Arthur Curtis place in Middleton. Through the interest of Mr. Curtis, Mr. Stoddard has received permission to make tests and necessary excavation that will not interfere with crops. Mr. Stoddard has also investigated

the present William Paisley place in West Boxford where a fragment of a fluted point was found. He determined that the artifact-bearing deposit had been completely destroyed by tillage.

At the request of Mr. Maurice Robbins, of Attleboro, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Stoddard, and Mr. Byers visited an abandoned field on the shore of Assawompsett Pond, near Middleboro, Massachusetts, where Mr. Robbins has been conducting a dig with members of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society over the past three or four years. We examined a number of pits that were opened, and observed the position of the artifact-bearing layers and conditions of the soil in general. We were particularly interested in remains of a partly burned tree found at one edge of the excavation, and in its relation to aboriginal occupation. Samples of the charred wood have been taken for radiocarbon dating. Mr. Robbins visited the Museum during the Fall for consultation on various points bearing on the interpretation of the finds. Material uncovered at Assawompsett Pond parallels in many ways and will also supplement finds made at Titicut, and it is therefore of considerable interest that both sites be properly recorded.

Mr. Johnson's study of the collection from Titicut has progressed to the point where he has been able to return the collection of artifacts belonging to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. He has recorded all pertinent data and is presently concerned with completing his study of different types of implements and their occurrence.

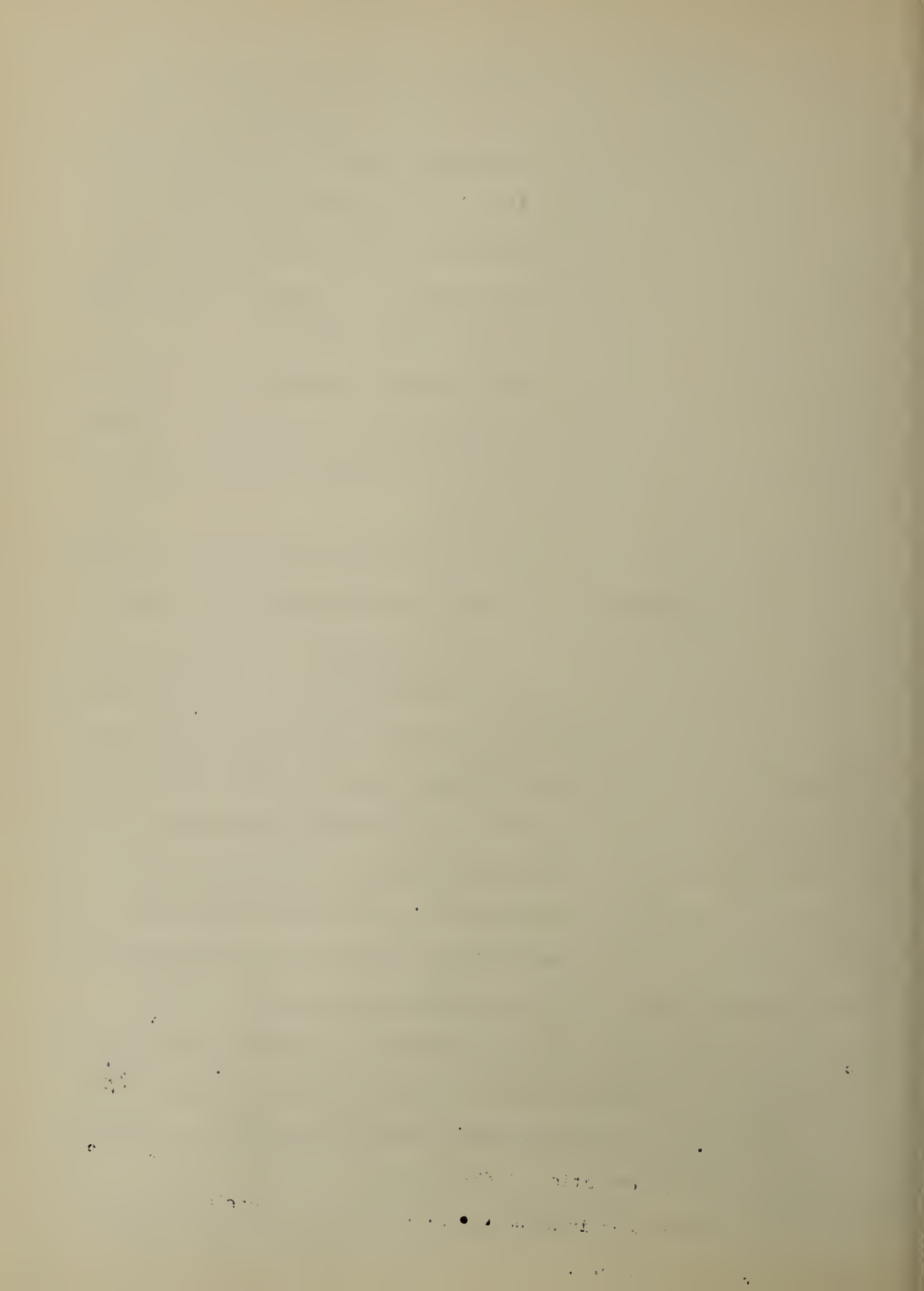
During the spring and summer Dr. A. V. Kidder found time to turn again to work on Pecos. He has begun to prepare a study of the ceremonial rooms or kivas exposed there during his excavations. Manuscript is being typed as he prepares it, and we expect that plans and drawings will be prepared during the next two or three months. It is anticipated that

this study will include a general summary of the work done there, and conclusions reached as a result not only of the excavations, but also of the vastly increased knowledge of aboriginal America which has accumulated since the completion of field work in 1929. Significance of this final paper of the Pecos series will undoubtedly be much increased by the perspective which has been gained in the interval. We expect that this paper will be ready to go to press in the latter part of the year.

The editors of The Encyclopedia Americana requested Mr. Byers to prepare articles for them on three Indian tribes. Accordingly he prepared short historical and descriptive notes for the Niantic, Nipissina, and Ipiuc Indians for the forthcoming edition.

The Foundation has been well represented at conferences and meetings in the field of anthropology. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Stoddard, and Mr. Byers attended the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, at Albany, New York, May 6-8. Mr. Byers presented a paper on maritime aspects of aboriginal culture brought out by his study of material from the Nevin shell heap. Mr. Stoddard attended the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, at Attleboro. Mr. Byers went to Stamford for the semi-annual meeting of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and by request delivered to this group the paper he had presented in Albany. Mr. Johnson was present at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association held in Detroit between Christmas and New Year. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Byers went to New York in March to attend the annual dinner of the Wenner-Gren Foundation at which the three Viking Lund medals for outstanding achievement in archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology were awarded.

A conference on the dating of Late Pleistocene and Recent events



by the use of radioactive carbon was held here October 21-23. Originally proposed and planned by the Divisions of Earth Sciences and of Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council, the conference was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the Robert S. Peabody Foundation which was host. The meeting was held for the express purpose of bringing together the physicists and chemists in whose laboratories radiocarbon dates are derived and geologists, botanists, and archaeologists who gather samples and interpret results. It was the consensus that the meeting was so successful that an attempt should be made to arrange a second such conference. Mr. Johnson, who acted as chairman and organized the first, has been delegated to arrange the second meeting which will be an international one including physicists, archaeologists, and geologists from England, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Italy and the United States. As a by-product of the meeting, a number of those attending have asked for copies of the catalogue of Phillips Academy. Many were so impressed that they attended chapel services both evenings. All were most outspoken in their enthusiasm and they expressed their opinion in a vote of thanks to the Trustees.

In late September the files and records of the American Anthropological Association were despatched to the Logan Museum, Beloit, Wisconsin, where Mr. William S. Godfrey assumed the office of Executive Secretary which Mr. Johnson has so capably fulfilled during the last five years. With the completion of Mr. Johnson's term, the Foundation staff is relieved of onerous outside obligations for almost the first time in sixteen years. It is felt that the Foundation has completely discharged any responsibility of this character for some time to come.

In our last report we had occasion to refer to the peculiar stone

structures near North Salem, New Hampshire, and indicated that some work there was contemplated. It is a pleasure to report that responsibility for this work has been assumed by the Early Sites Foundation, an organization recently formed for the express purpose of investigating a number of rather peculiar stone structures that have been found in various parts of New England. Mr. Stoddard and Mr. Byers went to Fitchburg in June to investigate a structure of this type reported to us by Mrs. Bigelow Crocker. It gave clear evidence of having been built within the last three hundred years, and it appears quite likely that it is no older than a century. This structure and a number of others of which we have record have been reported to the Early Sites Foundation. Some, at least, may have been stations on the Underground Railway.

In May, Mr. Johnson went to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, for a gathering of geologists and botanists comprised in an informal group known as Friends of the Pleistocene. This group, which has no officers and no dues, gathers at a different spot each year to observe various features of glacial geology which throw light on the character and extent of ice sheets that formerly covered the northern part of the continent. Since our work impinges at times on the field of glacial geology it seems wise to keep in touch with developments in that sphere.

In August, Mr. Johnson spent three days with Dr. Charles S. Denny, of the U. S. Geological Survey, and Dr. Walter H. Lyford of the soils branch of the Geological Survey, studying certain gravel pits in New Hampshire. Evidence of human occupation of a glacial kame was discovered but unfortunately a railroad cut had nearly destroyed the exposure and no conclusions concerning the material and its location could be drawn. Mr. Johnson reports there is some possibility that ancient Indian cultures may be found in

similar locations and that time spent in the field with geologists is of great assistance and value.

In November, Mr. Byers went to Plymouth with Henry Hornblower II, PA '37, to discuss with Governors of the Pilgrim Society the possibilities and limitations of the archaeological method as it might be applied to research on the Pilgrims. As a result of this conference it seems likely that the Pilgrim Society, the Pilgrim John Howland Society, and Plimoth Plantation, Inc., will undertake joint archaeological research in the vicinity of Plymouth.

Last spring the Foundation received a gift of a number of very fine Pueblo Indian jars from Singleton P. Moorehead, PA '18. These were collected by Mr. Moorehead when he was in the Southwest as a member of the Pecos Expedition with Dr. A. V. Kidder, about thirty years ago. The Foundation also received from Ludwig K. Moorehead, PA '14, and Singleton P. Moorehead, Trustees, a gift of a number of pieces including some very fine beaded leggings, waistcoats, ceremonial pouches and other objects presented to their father, the late Warren K. Moorehead by the Ojibwa Indians of the White Earth, Minnesota, Reservation in recognition of the part he played as a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners in preserving their reservation from operations of a lumber company. These and other specimens constitute the five accessions added to our catalogue during the year. Although they total only 47 items, some of these pieces are among the finest in our collections. Cataloguing of the Torrey collection was completed last year, but the final cards were not typed until the current year.

Mrs. Dorothy Elcom has continued to come to the Museum each Thursday to aid in keeping our library catalogue up to date. We take this opportunity to express our thanks to her, and to Miss Eades, our appreciation of her

continuing interest in our library. During the year we have added 73 titles to our catalogue and continue to receive exchanges and periodicals in our field. Because our space is limited, we shall soon have to consider other steps to be taken with our books. We have recently combined our set of the Annual Reports of the Smithsonian Institution with the set in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library in order to make one complete set, and we shall dispose of our duplicate copies. This will give us room for expansion for some time, but we shall soon be faced with the problem of discarding more outdated books or moving them to storage, leaving the library for books in active use.

Our library of colored slides of archaeological objects and sites is expanding. Not only do we have slides of our own digs and our own specimens, but also slides of other objects gathered from outside sources. We have recently added collections of slides illustrating material from areas in which we have not worked, and these slides will be of great help in teaching. We now have catalogued 692 slides, 162 of which have been catalogued since the beginning of the year. Approximately 200 more slides await cataloguing.

We report with regret that Mrs. James L. Irish found it necessary to leave in August, but we are happy to say that Mrs. Robert Stephanoff has returned to take over the secretary's duties.

The two hurricanes which swept the hill did the building very little harm. Aside from a few broken slates on the roof, no evidence of damage has been discovered. However, men from the E. Van Norden Company who have just completed examination of the roof and gutters report that the copper gutters are in very bad shape and that they will need replacing. The copper in the gutters is the original copper, installed in 1901. Because

of expansion and weathering many holes have appeared. In spite of capable repairs by Mr. James Mitchel the copper is no longer serviceable, and the many leaks which have developed are endangering the trim beneath the eaves.

Maintenance work on the interior of the building has been confined to the north room on the ground floor, where the windows have been closed up with plywood to permit control of lighting. Four non-functional lathe-and-plaster columns were removed, and this has made it possible to install our new cases without overcrowding. Because the Maintenance Department was short-handed, this work was handled by an outside contractor. Walls have been painted a warm gray to harmonize with cases, and the effect is so successful that we anticipate that similar treatment will be necessary in the south room on the same floor.

In spite of the dust, dirt, and confusion attendant on this work, Mr. Charles Schofield has kept the building nearly spotless. We are fortunate in having such a capable and cheerful person in charge of our building. He has had heavy demands on his time in connection with the many functions now scheduled in Peabody House, and has found it necessary to neglect the Museum on occasions. However, with the refinishing of the floor of the main room in Peabody House, we anticipate that his work will be somewhat lighter there. If groups of students who use that room for various social functions could assume some responsibility for clearing up after they are through it would save much time and energy that could be used in the Museum to advantage.

We look forward to the new year with anticipation and confidence. We expect to have one and possibly two reports in press before the year comes to a close. We hope to complete installation of our Northeastern

shall and to be ready for our opening before Christmas, 1955.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas S. Byers
Director

